

## PUBLIC NOTICE

US Army Corps of Engineers New York District Jacob K. Javits Federal Building New York, N.Y. 10278-0090 ATTN: Regulatory Branch

In replying refer to:

Public Notice Number: 2006-3147-WBR

Issue Date: November 17, 2006

Expiration Date: December 18, 2006

#### To Whom It May Concern:

The New York District, Corps of Engineers has received an application for a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

APPLICANT: Town of Wells

Main Street, P.O. Box 205 Wells, New York 12190

ACTIVITY: Dredge with upland disposal and return flow

WATERWAY: Sacandaga River, Lake Algonquin, Hudson River Watershed

LOCATION: Town of Wells, Hamilton County, New York

A detailed description and plans of the applicant's activity are enclosed to assist in your review.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

ALL COMMENTS REGARDING THE PERMIT APPLICATION MUST BE PREPARED IN WRITING AND MAILED TO REACH THIS OFFICE BEFORE THE EXPIRATION DATE OF THIS NOTICE, otherwise, it will be presumed that there are no objections to the activity.

### CENAN-OP-RW PUBLIC NOTICE NO. 2006-3147-WBR

Any person may request, in writing, before this public notice expires, that a public hearing be held to collect information necessary to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons why a public hearing should be held. It should be noted that information submitted by mail is considered just as carefully in the permit decision process and bears the same weight as that furnished at a public hearing.

Our preliminary determination is that the activity for which authorization is sought herein is not likely to affect any Federally endangered or threatened species or their critical habitat. However, pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531), the District Engineer is consulting with the appropriate Federal agency to determine the presence of and potential impacts to listed species in the project area or their critical habitat.

Based upon a review of the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places, there are no known sites eligible for, or included in, the Register within the permit area. Presently unknown archeological, scientific, prehistorical, or historical data may be lost by work accomplished under the required permit. In a letter dated January 4, 2002, the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation stated that a previous Department of the Army authorization issued for dredging in the lake would have no effect upon resources in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

Based upon a review of the National Rivers Inventory of the National Park Service, the Sacandaga River is designated for further study for its potential for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System due to its scenic, recreational, fish, and historical values. It is the preliminary determination by this that the proposed activity will not adversely affect the potential for inclusion of this section of the Sacandaga River in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Further review of the project will be coordinated with the National Park Service.

Reviews of activities pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404 (b) of the Clean Water Act and the applicant will obtain a water quality certificate or waiver from the appropriate state agency in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act prior to a permit decision.

- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Article 15 Permit
- Adirondack Park Agency

It is requested that you communicate the foregoing information concerning the activity to any persons known by you to be interested and who did not receive a copy of this notice. If you have any questions concerning this application, you may contact this office at (518) 273-7420 and ask for Kevin Bruce.

For more information on New York District Corps of Engineers programs, visit our website at http://www.nan.usace.army.mil

Richard L. Tomer

Chief, Regulatory Branch

Enclosures

#### WORK DESCRIPTION

The applicant, Town of Wells, has requested Department of the Army authorization to dredge with upland disposal to restore Lake Algonquin to a condition that supports recreational uses of the lake including, boating, swimming, waterskiing, and aesthetic enjoyment. The project is located on the Sacandaga River, in the Town of Wells, Hamilton County, New York.

The work would constitute a second phase of dredging that would remove an additional 59,150 cubic yards of sediment from eight locations on the 275-acre lake, totaling 40 acres in combined area.

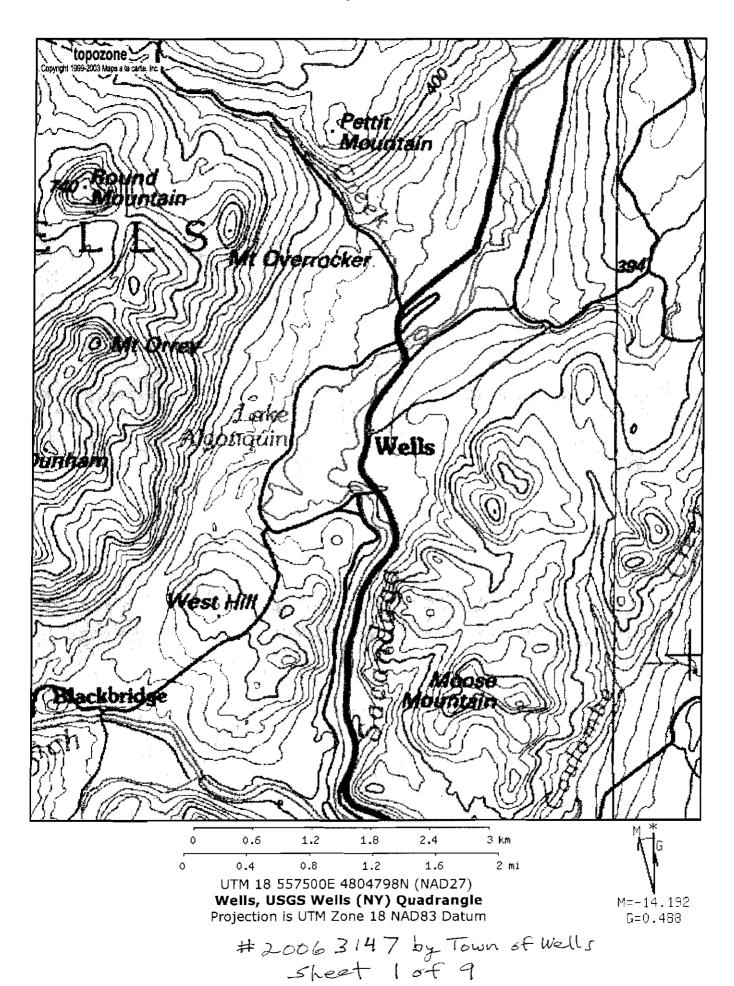
The Town of Wells received Department of the Army authorization to dredge approximately 138,200 cubic yards of sediment from seven locations within the lake for Phase 1 dredging on April 4, 2005. This current authorization is conditional upon the applicant performing mitigation for the impacts to aquatic resources which includes the implementation of an Invasive Species Control Plan that incorporates the reestablishment of native aquatic vegetation in 7.7 acres of the dredged area, and the implementation of a Watershed Management Plan, which includes the restoration of 300 linear feet of riparian habitat along Elbow Creek, a tributary to the lake.

Due to a modification of plans, Phase 1 dredging, which began in August of 2006, will result in the removal of 97,900 cubic yards of sediment. Phase 1 and 2 dredging combined will result in the removal of a total of 157,050 cubic yards of sediment, affecting 71.4 acres of the lake.

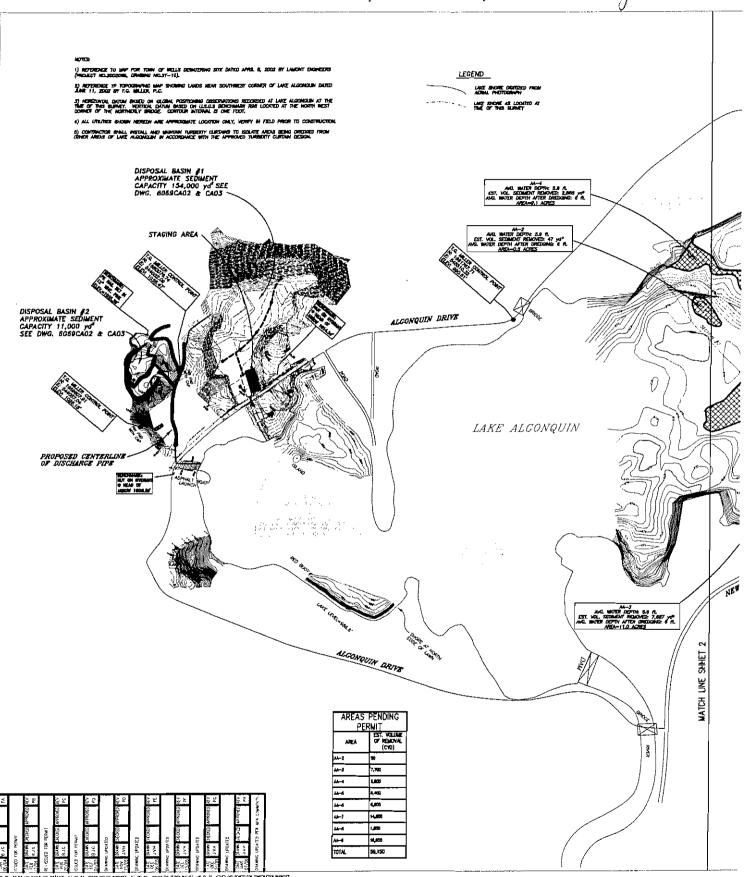
Phase 2 dredging would be conducted using a portable cutter-head dredge with piping and booster pumps to convey the dredged sediments to three separate dewatering/disposal basins located in uplands. Thirty two of the 40 acres proposed for dredging consist of emergent wetland and aquatic beds with rooted and/or floating vegetation. Water depths in these areas would not be deepened to exceed approximately 6-feet below the ordinary high water elevation of 986.7 feet and the lake bed would not be lowered below 980 feet above mean sea level, to provide for the reestablishment of wetlands. Current lake bed elevations within the proposed dredge area range from 980.8 to 986.2 feet.

As mitigation for the proposed impacts to aquatic resources for Phase 2, the applicant will adhere to the Invasive Species Management Plan. In addition, the applicant will monitor the natural reestablishment of vegetative growth in the dredged areas. If the macrophytic community does not recover to 50% of baseline conditions two years after completion of the dredging, the Town will replant the areas with native vegetation.

Based on the current schedule, the applicant plans to complete all of the dredging in the fall of 2007.

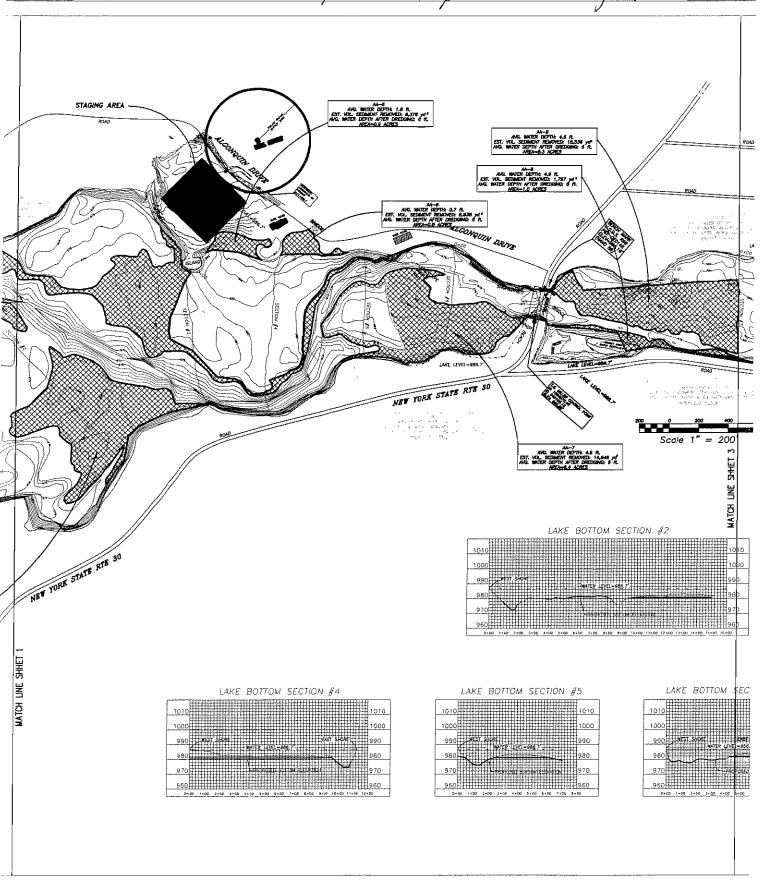


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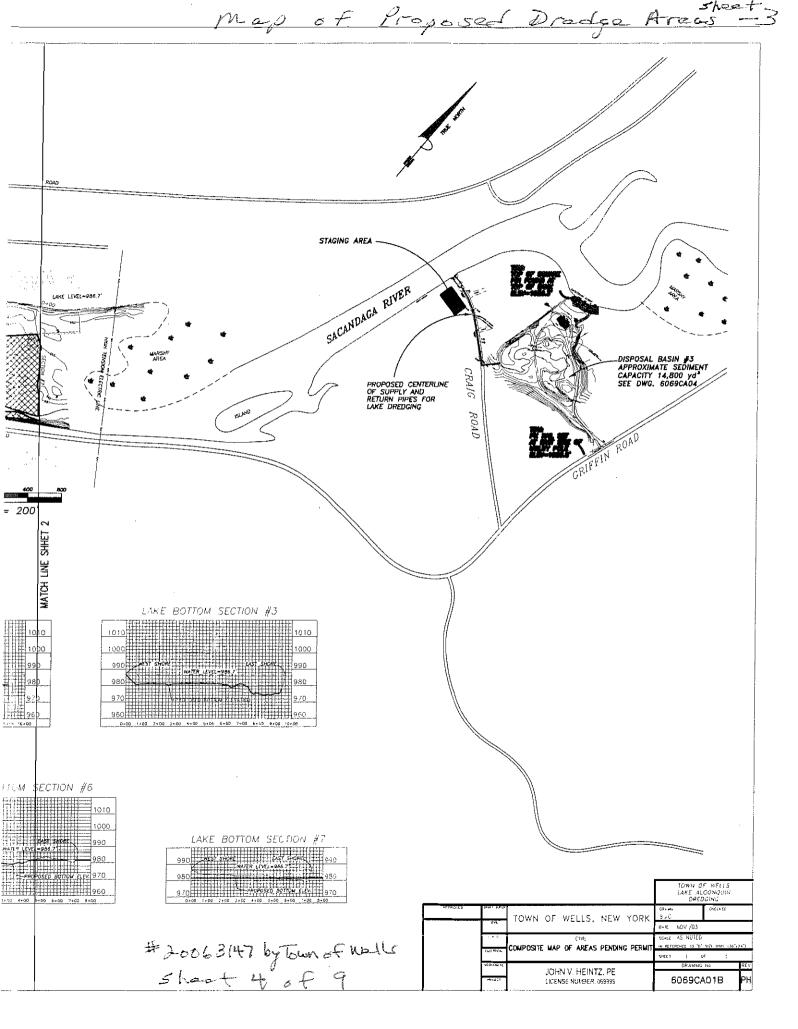


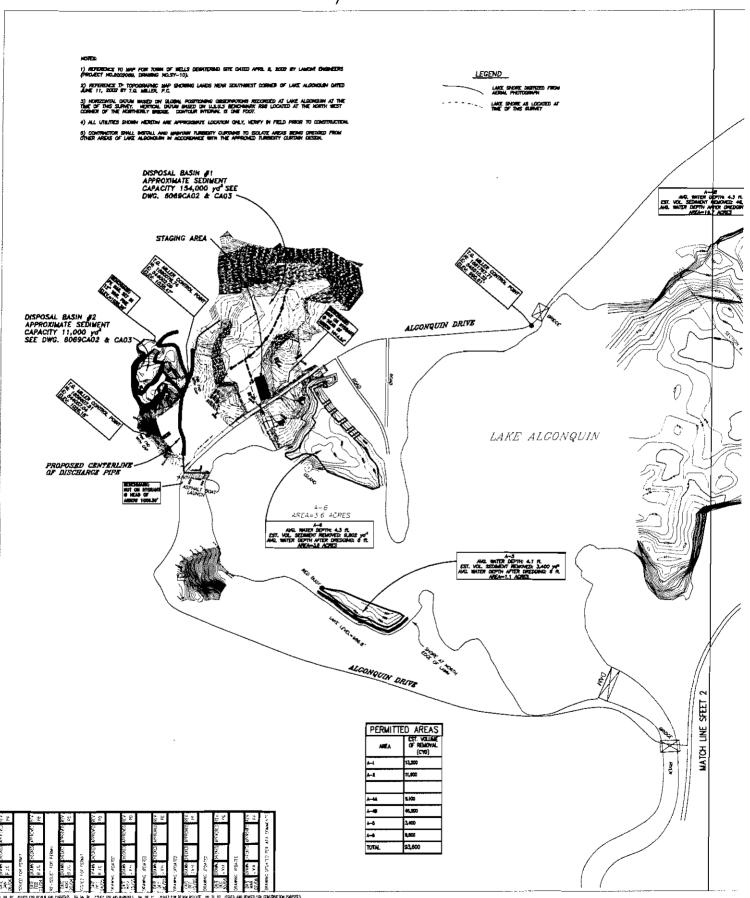
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# map of Proposed Dredge Areas - 2

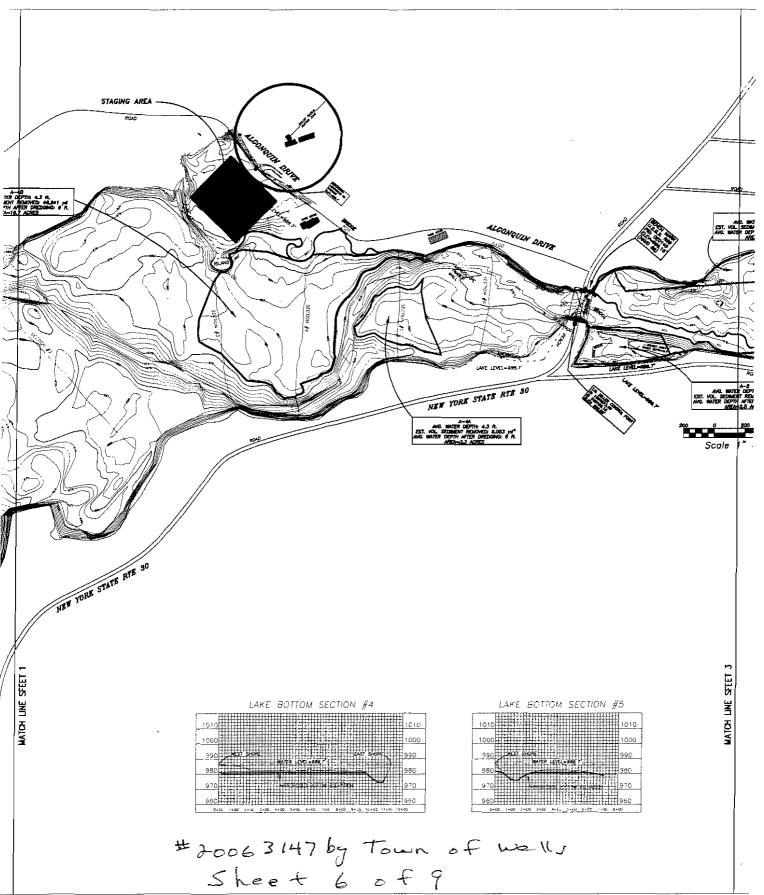


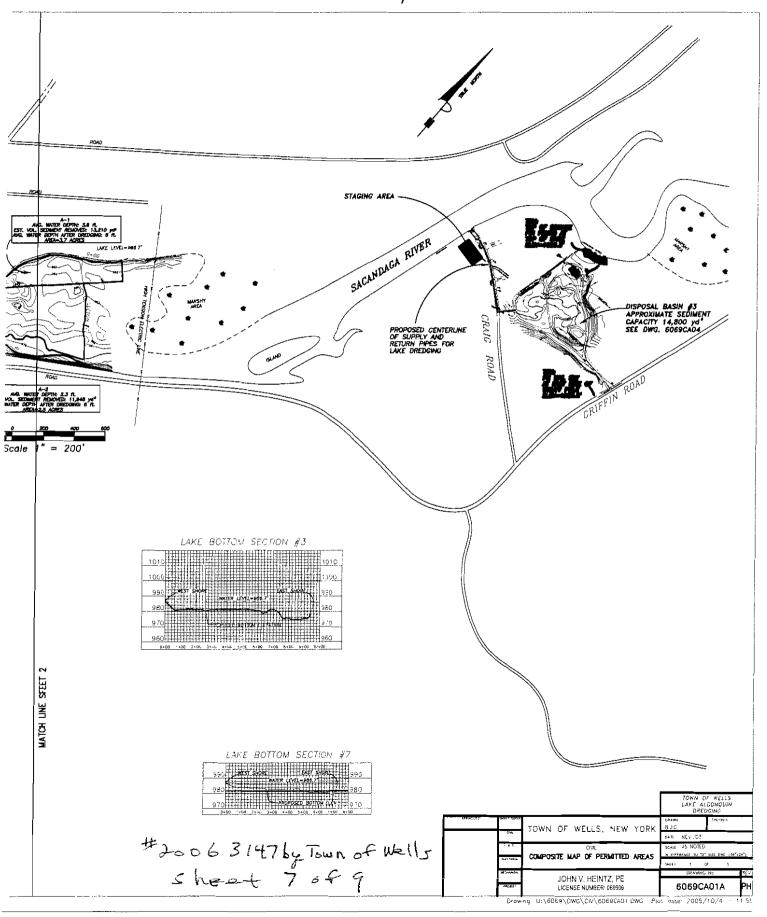
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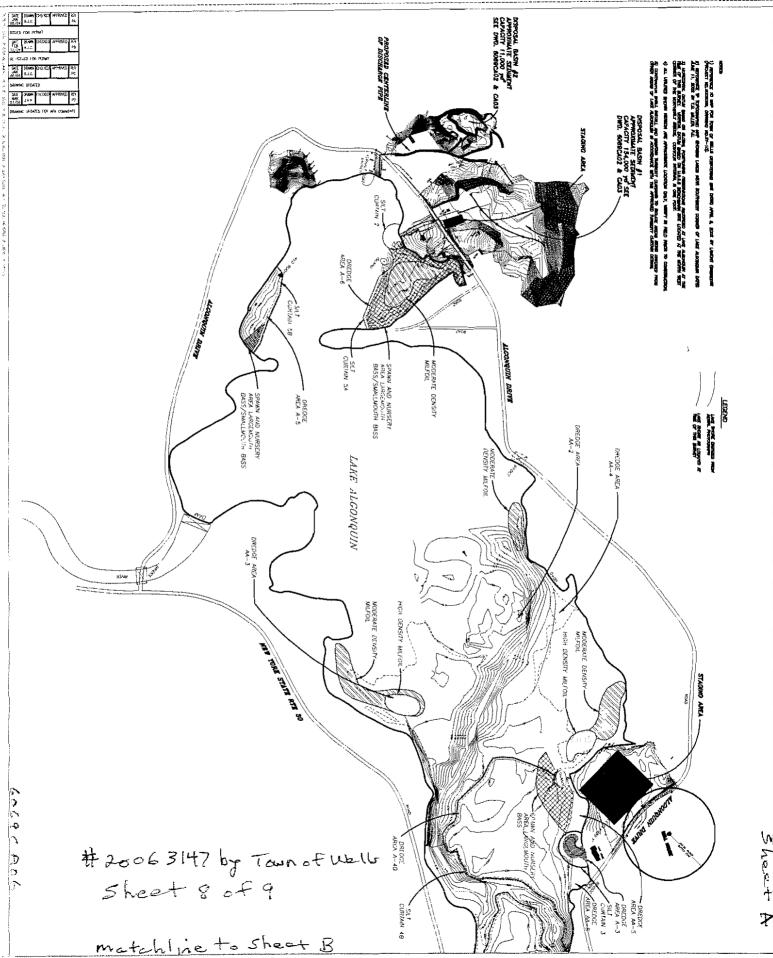




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